would permit import and supply of even Negative List items for supply on payment of duty against specific licences and without payment of duty against Advance Licences.

3. Provisions have also been made in the EXIM Policy for setting up of Private Bonded Warehouses for exports. This would help such exporters especially overseas buyers to procure the goods from the domestic market from different manufacturers duty free.

4. Licensing functions have been decentralisedextensively.Alllicencesfor negative list of imports/negative list of exports, advance licences approved by ALC, EPCG Licences approved by EPCG Committee at Headquarters/COS will henceforth be issued by Regional Licensing Authority. Power to grant extention in export obligation period and revalidation of advance licences has been fully decentralised.

5. Advance Licences with Actual User condition have been allowed based on Positive Value Addition only. Requirement of minimum Value Addition of 33% for this category of Advance Licences has been done away with.

6. Advance Licences to Export House/ Trading House/Start Trading House/ Super Star Trading House will henceforth be issued automatically. Deficiency, if any, shall be required to be complied with after issuance of the licence.

7. In the Agricultural and allied Sector EOU/EPZ Units have been per mitted to be set up on the basis of positive Net Foreign Exchange earning only. Accordingly, for this sector, the requirement of minimum Net Foreign Exchange earning of 20% has been done away with.

8. Additional SIL will henceforth be given based on incremental exports as given below:

25—50% over preceding year: 1% 50—75% over preceding year: 2% 75—100% over preceding year: 3% Over 100% over preceding year: 5%

(c) India has a number of obligations accruing from various Uruguay Round Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, General Agreement on Trade in Services. Agreement on Trade related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Agreement on Trade related Investment Measures (TRIMS), Agreement on agriculture, Agreement on textiles and clothing. Agreement on Import Licensing, Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing subsidies etc.

(d) The EXIM Policy is only one of the instruments being used by the Government to fulfill obligation under the Uruguay Round Agreement.

(e) and (f) India has been endeavoring to fulfil all the WTO obligations. This is an on-going exercise, being undertaken by a number of Ministries of the Government.

Non Payment of Wages

2785. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI.
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the workers of Tea Corporation of India are not getting their wages for a long time; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and steps being taken to pay their wages?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of State Trading Corporation (STC), is facing an acute financial crunch being a loss

making Company and has been unable to discharge its obligations. The total liability of the Company is estimated around Rs. 36 crores as on 31.1.97. The Corporation considered the following options:—

(a) Outright sale of the shares of the Corporation;

(b) Bifurcation of the existing Company in case(a) is not found possible; and

(c) STC to initiate liquidation proceedings in case options (a) & (b) above are not found practicable.

TTCI has been unable to implement the options at (a) & (b) above.

Non Plan Support to Sick PSUs

2786. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Norms ready to halt noh-pian support IO sick PSUs" appearing in 'The Telegraph' dated the 16th June, 1998;

(b) if so, the names of the companies Government wants to shut down and names of the companies Government proposes to revive;

(c) whether Government have for this purpose already stopped payment of salaries to companies like BPMEL, Weighbird, Hindustan Cables, Refractory Units of Burn Standard, etc.;

(d) whether it is a violation of payment of Wages Act; and

(e) if not, the Act as per which the wages are being denied to the sick PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THEMINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of the 48 PSUs under the Deptt. of Heavy Industry 23 PSUs are registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Refer ence of sick PSUs to BIFR is mandatory under the provisions of sick Industrial Companies Act (SICA). BIFR consults various agencies including State Govern ment, Central Government, Financial In stitutions, Labour, Management etc. for revival or otherwise of the Company. Government actively participates in this process to enable finalisation of the re commendations by BIFR. A statement giving the present status of PSUs before BIFR is enclosed *(See below).* BIFR is quasi-judicial body.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement

Position of BIFR cases

1 No. of operating PSUs under the Department	: 48
2 No. of sick PSUs registered with BIFR	: 23
3. Cases where BIFR has sanctioned scheme for revival.	: 9 (Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd., Jessop ft Co., Triveni Structural Ltd., Richardson & Crudas Ltd., Braithwaite & Co. Ltd., Bharat Brakes &. Valves Ltd., Heavy Engineering Corpn., Scooters India Ltd. & RBL Ltd.)